

Ride-Along

405.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The ride-along program provides an opportunity for persons to experience the law enforcement function firsthand. This policy provides the requirements, approval process and hours of operation for the ride-along program.

405.1.1 ELIGIBILITY

The Ashland County Sheriff's Office ride-along program is offered to residents, students and those employed within the County. Reasonable efforts should be made to accommodate interested persons. Any applicant may be disqualified without cause from participating in the program.

The following factors may be considered in disqualifying an applicant and are not limited to:

- Being under 15 years of age
- Prior criminal history
- Pending criminal action
- Pending lawsuit against the Office
- Denial by any supervisor

405.1.2 AVAILABILITY

The ride-along program is available on most days of the week. The ride-along times are from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Exceptions to this schedule may be made as approved by the Sheriff, Chief Deputy, Patrol Lieutenant or Shift Sergeant.

405.2 PROCEDURE TO REQUEST A RIDE-ALONG

Generally, ride-along requests will be scheduled by the Sheriff or Chief Deputy. The participant will complete and sign a ride-along waiver form 405.5. Information requested will include a valid driver's license, address and telephone number. If the participant is under 18 years of age, a parent/guardian must be present to complete the ride-along form.

The Sheriff or Designee will schedule a date, based on availability, at least one week after the date of application. If approved, a copy of the ride-along waiver form will be forwarded to the respective Shift Sergeant as soon as possible for his/her scheduling considerations.

If the ride-along is denied after the request has been made, a representative of the Office will contact the applicant and advise him/her of the denial.

405.2.1 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Once approved, civilian ride-alongs will be allowed to ride no more than once every six months. An exception would apply to the following: qualified volunteers, chaplains, auxiliary and sheriff's applicants with approval of the Shift Sergeant.

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An effort will be made to ensure that no more than one citizen will participate in a ride-along during any given time period. Normally, no more than one ride-along will be allowed in the deputy's vehicle at a given time. When practicable, ride-alongs who request multiple opportunities to participate in the ride-along program should be rotated among deputies.

Ride-along participants may not carry firearms unless they are legally authorized to do so and the Shift Sergeant has permitted such carry.

405.2.2 SUITABLE ATTIRE

Any person approved to ride-along is required to be suitably dressed in a collared shirt, blouse or jacket, slacks and shoes. Sandals, T-shirts, tank tops, shorts and ripped or torn blue jeans are not permitted. Hats and ball caps will not be worn in the sheriff's vehicle. The Shift Sergeant or field supervisor may refuse a ride-along to anyone not properly dressed.

405.2.3 PEACE OFFICER RIDE-ALONGS

Off-duty members of this office or any other law enforcement agency will not be permitted to ride-along with on-duty deputies without the express consent of the Shift Sergeant. In the event that such a ride-along is permitted, the off-duty employee shall not be considered on-duty and shall not represent him/herself as a peace officer or participate in any law enforcement activity except as emergency circumstances may require.

405.2.4 RIDE-ALONG CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK

All ride-along applicants are subject to a criminal history check. The criminal history check may include a local records check and a Wisconsin Department of Justice (WisDOJ) Criminal History System check prior to approval as a ride-along with a law enforcement officer (provided that the ride-along is not an employee of the Ashland County Sheriff's Office).

405.3 DEPUTY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The deputy shall advise the dispatcher that a ride-along is present in the vehicle before going into service. Deputies shall consider the safety of the ride-along at all times.

Deputies should use sound discretion when encountering a potentially dangerous situation, such as a high-speed pursuit. If practicable, the participant should be let out of the vehicle in a safe, well-lighted place. The dispatcher will be advised of the situation and as soon as practicable have another sheriff's unit respond to pick up the participant at that location. The ride-along may be continued or terminated at this time.

Conduct by a person participating in a ride-along that results in termination of the ride or is otherwise inappropriate should be immediately reported to the Shift Sergeant.

The Sheriff or Designee is responsible for maintaining and scheduling ride-alongs. Upon completion of the ride-along, a copy of the ride-along waiver form shall be returned to the Sheriff or Designee with any comments that may be offered by the deputy.

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405.4 CONTROL OF RIDE-ALONG

The assigned employee shall maintain control over the ride-along at all times and instruct him/her in the conditions that necessarily limit participation. These instructions should include the following:

- (a) The ride-along will follow the directions of the deputy.
- (b) The ride-along will not become involved in any investigation, handling of evidence, discussions with victims or suspects or handling any sheriff's equipment.
- (c) The ride-along may terminate the ride at any time and the deputy may return the observer to his/her home, the place of the ride origin or to the station if the ride-along interferes with the performance of the deputy's duties.
- (d) Ride-alongs may be allowed to continue riding during the transportation and booking process, provided this does not jeopardize their safety.
- (e) Deputies will not allow any ride-alongs to be present in any residence or situation that would jeopardize their safety or cause undue stress or embarrassment to a victim or any other person.
- (f) Under no circumstance shall a civilian ride-along be permitted to enter a private residence with a deputy without the express consent of the resident or other authorized person.

405.5 RIDE-ALONG WAIVER FORM

See attachment: [FORM 405.5.pdf](#)

Attachments

FORM 405.5.pdf



ASHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REQUEST TO RIDE ALONG WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WITH ASSUMPTION OF RISK, COMPLETE RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

I, _____, of _____ (_____) _____,
(PRINT NAME) (PRINT ADDRESS) (PRINT TELEPHONE NO.)
hereby request that the Ashland County Sheriff's Department permit me to accompany a law enforcement officer on his/her tour of duty on _____.
(RIDE-ALONG DATE)

In making this request, I state that I am aware that and fully realize that accompanying this officer involves me being exposed to a high degree of risk including the risks of death, injury and/or property damage.

Although the circumstances which may confront the officer and hence me cannot be foreseen or predicted, I nevertheless hereby freely and voluntarily make this request and voluntarily accept and assume all such risks.

In exchange for the Ashland County Sheriff's Department allowing me to ride along with or accompany an officer, I, on my own behalf, and on behalf of my heirs, release, acquit and discharge the County of Ashland and all of its supervisors, officers, employees, agents and representatives from any and all claims, actions and causes of action, for any death, injury, damage, loss, costs, expense, charge, liability or fee which is associated with, relates to or arises from any occurrence, act, omission, accident or event which happens in the course of such ride along or accompaniment.

Further, I agree to protect, defend, indemnify and hold the County of Ashland and all of its supervisors, officer, employees, agents and representatives harmless from any claim, action or cause of action asserted by any party which is related to, arises from or is associated with this ride along. This indemnification provision specifically includes, but is not limited to, covering such things as claims asserted by a third party medical service provider and any governmental agency or insurance company which has paid for such services.

This document shall be liberally and broadly construed to provide maximum benefit and protection to those who are hereby released or who are to be indemnified.

I STATE THAT I AM OVER AGE EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS, THAT I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY, THAT I UNDERSTAND ALL OF ITS TERMS AND PROVISIONS AND THAT I SIGN THE SAME INTENDING TO BE FULLY AND LEGALLY BOUND HEREBY.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____.

DRIVER'S LICENSE/ ID CARD NO.

Signature

*** JUVENILE ***

I, _____, as parent or legal guardian of _____, having read the above document in its entirety, and understanding all of its term and provisions, do hereby freely and voluntarily consent to and approve of such ride along/accompaniment and I further consent to, approve of and agree to the aforesaid assumption of risk, the release of all claims and the indemnification provisions set forth above.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____.

DRIVER'S LICENSE/ ID CARD NO.

Signature of parent or legal guardian of above minor